

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105762

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 1887 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA
DACCA ISLAMABAD JAKARTA LIMA LONDON MOSCOW NAIROBI
NEW DELHI NOUAKCHOTT PARIS SAN JOSE VIENNA YAOUNDE PEKING 20 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH MEMBERSHIP IN UN

REF: USUN 1860

SUMMARY. BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR KARIM INFORMED MISOFF
MAY 18 OF STATUS HIS EFFORTS HAVE SC TAKE UP BANGLADESH UN
ADMISSION APPLICATION. HE HAS REPORTED TO DACCA AND
REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. KARIM CALLED ON SOVIET AMB MALIK WHO DEVOTED MOST OF
TALK TO DENUNCIATION OF CHINESE. HE ALSO WAS IN HIGH DUDGEON
OVER SECRETARIAT REPORT ON MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN
(A/AC.159/1) WHICH HE INTENDS TO PROTEST. SOVIETS SUPPORT
EARLY SC ACTION ON BD'S APPLICATION, BUT THEY PLANNING NO
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SPECIAL INITIATIVE.

2. CHINESE ACTING PERMREP AMBASSADOR CHUANG YEN TOLD KARIM THAT REGARDLESS WHEN ADMISSION QUESTION COMES UP AT SC, CHINA WILL NOT OPPOSE BANGLADESH'S APPLICATION. HOWEVER, CHUANG TOOK PAKISTAN POSITION THAT IT MUCH BETTER IF SC ACTION DELAYED FOR SOME TIME, AS THIS WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF SITUATION ON SUBCONTINENT. KARIM BELIEVES THAT POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL REASON FOR CHINA REQUESTING DELAY IS FACT THAT BD AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET NAVY FOR ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING WRECKS FROM CHITTAGOND HARBOR EXPIRES IN JUNE; PRESUMABLY CHINA WOULD BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WELCOMING BD IN UN ONCE SOVIET NAVY HAS LEFT BD. CHUANG DEVOTED MUCH OF TALK TO DENUNCIATION OF USSR AND MADE ONLY ONE OR TWO CRITICAL REFERENCES TO USA. HE PLACED GREAT STRESS ON CHINA'S CLAIM TO MEMBERSHIP IN "THIRD WORLD." KARIM SAID HE TOLD CHINESE HIS INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTED HIM ONLY MINIMAL FLEXIBILITY ON TIME FRAME FOR SC ACTION. ALTHOUGH HE HOPED FOR ACTION DURING WEEK OF MAY 20, HE HAD NO OBJECTION IF THERE POSTPONEMENT UNTIL FOLLOWING WEEK PROVIDED FAVORABLE ACTION COMPLETED BEFORE END OF MONTH.

3. KENYA AMBASSADOR MAINA, PRESIDENT SC, TOLD KARIM HE HOPED ALL CONTROVERSY COULD BE AVOIDED IN CONSIDERING BD'S APPLICATION. HE ALSO PLEADED INEXPERIENCE IN HANDLING SC AFFAIRS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN HE MIGHT BE FACED WITH TRICKY PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM. KARIM SAID, HOWEVER, THAT JUDGING FROM QUESTIONS MAINA ASKED, HE APPEARED THOROUGHLY CONVERSANT WITH SC PROCEDURES.

4. PAKISTAN REP TOLD KARIM PRIMIN BHUTTO HAS SENT TELEGRAM TO BD PRIMIN MJUIBUR RAHMAN ASKING FOR MEETING SO THAT BHUTTO CAN BRIEF MUJIB ON HIS PEKING VISIT. KARIM INTERPRETS THIS, AT LEAST IN PART, AS FURTHER EFFORT TO PERSUADE BD TO ACCEPT POSTPONEMENT OF SC ACTION.

5. KARIM SAID THAT PAKISTAN'S CLAIM THAT PAKS AT LATER DATE MAY BE ABLE TO "SPONSOR" BD'S APPLICATION AT SC IS IRRELEVANT, AS PAKISTAN IS NOT MEMBER OF SC. BD WOULD PREFER NOT HAVE ANY COUNTRY "SPONSOR" APPLICATION, BUT RATHER HAVE IT ACCEPTED AS CONSENSUS OF ENTIRE COUNCIL. KARIM BELIEVES IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SPEAK AT SC AND IF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAKISTAN WISHES TO WELCOME BD INTO THE UN, IT COULD WAIT UNTIL FINAL ACTION TAKEN BY GA IN SEPTEMBER. BD ALSO HOPES INDIA WILL MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE IN CURRENT SITUATION.

6. REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT REFERRAL OF APPLICATION TO ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHINA TO DELAY SC ACTION, KARIM SAID THAT BD CASE IS SO CLEAR CUT THAT CHINA WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACHIEVE MORE THAN ONE WEEK POSTPONEMENT

WITHOUT APPEARING RIDICULOUS.

7. ALTHOUGH HE COMPLETELY REJECTS PAKISTAN/CHINA ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF SC DELAY, KARIM WELL AWARE OF SENTIMENT OF SOME SC MEMBERS THAT THERE NO POINT IN NEEDLESSLY CROSSING SWORDS WITH CHINESE ON THIS ISSUE. KARIM IS IN DIFFICULT PERSONAL POSITION, AS IF HE DOES NOT GET FAVORABLE SC ACTION THIS MONTH, THIS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS FAILURE OF BD DIPLOMACY. HE CONSCIOUS OF PAK ATTEMPT TO GAIN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FROM BD ADMISSION AND IS UNDERSTAND-ABLY SUSPICIOUS OF PAK MOTIVATION. KARIM SAID HE HAS REPORTED ON HIS EFFORTS TO DACCA AND REQUESTED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

8. ON MAY 20 KARIM TOLD US THAT SC PRESIDENT MAINA INFORMED HIM THAT CHINA WAS ONLY SC MEMBER OPPOSING EARLY SC ACTION ON BD ADMISSION AND THEREFORE MAINA PREPARED TO CONVENE COUNCIL. BECAUSE OF "OTHER CONSIDERATIONS" (I.E. RUNNING THE RISK OF ANTAGONIZING CHINA), HE SUGGESTED THAT BD SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ITS POSITION. KARIM TOLD MAINA THAT HIS REQUEST FOR SC ACTION BEFORE THE END OF MAY STILL STANDS. HOWEVER, KARIM SAID HE HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO LONDON TO MEET BD FOREIGN MINISTER WHO THERE ON VISIT, HE WILL RETURN NEW YORK MAY 23, AND MEET MAINA MAY 24. KARIM ANTICIPATES THAT MAINA AGAIN WILL CONSULT WITH SC MEMBERS BEFORE CONVENING COUNCIL WEEK OF MAY 27, ASSUMING BD ULTIMATELY STICKS BY ITS DECISION TO ASK FOR SC ACTION THIS MONTH.
SCALI UNQUOTE RUSH

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